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Pa/Pf. 44990 Bro. 87 123a

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Daily Telegraph

Date 5 9 49

ARMED POLICE STOP ROBESON MEETING CLASH

EX-SOLDIERS' MARCH

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
NEW YORK, Sunday.

Elaborate police precautions to-day prevented rioting at Peekskill, 25 miles from New York, between Communists and anti-Communists at an open-air concert at which Paul Robeson, the pro - Communist Negro singer, appeared.

Fifteen hundred armed police, helmeted National Guards (Army reservists), sheriffs and detectives, equipped with tear gas were on duty. They were backed by firemen, who were prepared to use their hoses.

The police watched 1,500 ex-Service counter-demonstrators march past a crowd of 15,000 at the concert. There were catcalls and heckling, mostly from ex-Servicemen, and some minor clashes.

A week ago, at the same place, a Communist attempt to hold a similar concert was broken up by anti-Communist war veterans. This led to a three-hour riot, but the New York Communist party and satellite groups determined to hold the concert to-day near the same spot.

Police to-day broke up a charge by veterans who tried to fight their way into the concert ground. An attempt by a man to ride on horseback through the ring of Communists protecting Robeson was foiled.

Large quantities of baseball bats, golf clubs, home-made truncheons and other improvised weapons were surrendered to the police by demonstrators. While Robeson sang the veterans marching round the concert ground tried to drown his voice by chanting, beating drums, blowing bugles and sounding motor-car horns.

R4 (1)

JB 14/5/45

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Image Referenc

PF 44990

FROM THE PRESS SECTION.

Daily Express

Date 29 8 49

EX-G.I.s BREAK UP ROBESON SHOW

From C. V. R. THOMPSON: New York, Sunday

AN angry crowd of ex-G.I.s broke up a Paul Robeson concert in the woods of suburban New York last night, and caused a riot which lasted 3½ hours and involved 5,000 people.

The concert was to have been held at a picnic ground outside Peekskill, a village where Royal Navy crews rested during the Battle of the Atlantic.

It was planned to raise funds from local Negroes for a Left-wing Harlem political group.

The organisers asked for police protection after the Peekskill Evening Star front-paged an editorial calling on its readers to boycott the concert because Robeson's "so-called concerts turn out to be political rallies." Robeson's politics are not popular in America except among Communists.

But there were only four deputy sheriffs there at dusk when the first members of the audience arrived.

Instead of the voice of Robeson the audience suddenly heard fife and drum music.

WAVED BROOMS

It came from four brass bands which led ex-Servicemen—and the local fire brigade—to a counter-rally. Their orders were to "march up and down outside the picnic ground and play like hell."

Some marchers carried banners with slogans "Down with the Communists," "Communists not Wanted." Others waved brooms with a placard reading "Sweep the Communists out."

As they marched along the bone-dry, dirt road the bands played patriotic songs like "America the Beautiful," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Suddenly another tune clashed with theirs. The Robeson audience was singing a Negro spiritual, sometimes used as a political pep song—"We shall not be moved."

The marchers rounded the last bend in the narrow road to find a phalanx of the singing Robesonites obstructing them.

The ex-G.I.s turned over cars as roadblocks, then took the offensive.

They forced an entrance to the picnic ground, and someone turned off the floodlights.

A group marched on the stage and made a woman pianist, shivering despite the 90 degrees temperature, play "Yankee Doodle," then the U. S. National Anthem. And they knocked down anyone who did not stand still.

CARS WRECKED

Another group fought their way to the stage, tore it apart, and started a bonfire. Above the noise could be heard the shrieking of women running into the woods to hide.

The marchers stopped cars, turned a dozen of them over and immobilised the rest by pouring sand into the petrol tanks.

A traffic jam, nearly five miles long, was so dense that it took the 50 police called out to reinforce the deputy sheriffs three hours to get there. As soon as they did, the fighting stopped.

Robeson, warned of the riot, did not turn up.

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Image Referen

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

121A

Copy to B.J.C.

FILE

PF.44990/B.L.b/WND.

To: S.L.O. West Africa.

From: Director-General.

116a

Thank you for your letter PF/64 dated 19 July, 1949, enclosing an intercept with some interesting details of ROBESON's visit to Prague. Your courtesy in sending the letter about Florence MANLEY is also appreciated.

ROBESON is now back in this country and may take part in a "Peace Congress" at which will be present foreign guests, organised by the British Peace Committee formed after the Paris Congress of Partisans of Peace.

WND/DVW
23.8.49.

Sir Percy Sillitoe.

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

Lwb 15
23/8/49

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Imag

119c

EXTRACT

RW. 89.?

ract for File No.: P.F. 44.990 Name: ROBESON.

ginal in File No.: S.F.411/Czechoslovakia Serial: 451a Receipt Date: 11.8.49.

Original from: S.I.S.report Under Ref. ...ced: 11.8.49.

Extracted on: 27.8.49. by: PJM Section: R.4.

Extract from S.I.S.report re Communist Acitivities in Czechoslovakia for period 15.5.49. to 15.7.49. mentioning ROBESON.

.....

82. Paul ROBESON, who was in Prague at the time of the KSC Congress attended a reunion meeting of the I.U.S. foreign students on 27th May in Prague organised by the Executive Committee of W.F.D.Y. with the assistance of the S.C.M. and the Czech Students' Union. ROBESON declaired that the fight waged by the progressive elements in the world could only end in victory of the international peace camp; The release of Eisler had been a significient sign of the growing influence of the democratic forces of the world. ROBESON devoted the proceeds of two concerts given in Czechoslovakia to the cause of the "democratic" colonial students.

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JULY 2004

Form 81/P.G./5000/8.48.

EXTRACT.

Extract for File No. PF 44990 Name: ROBESON

Final in File No. SF 411/Poland vol.4. Serial: 208b Receipt Date: 10.8.49.

Original from S.I.S. report Under Ref. Dated: 9.8.49.

Extracted on 30.8.49. by E.F. Section: R.4.

Extract from S.1.S. Monthly report re Communist Activity in Poland for June 1949 mentioning ROBESON.

.....

4. Paul ROBESON left Poland for Moscow on 4th June 1949.

.....

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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958. JULY 2004

DEPARTURE.

Pa. Pf 44990 | 19A
No record of entry in summer | Vo 4.

Copy of Card in Traffic Index.

Port of Disembarkation abroad Prague

Name ROBESON, Paul

Age 9.4.98 Sex M

Names and ages of dependents under 16 accompanying

Occupation Concert Artist

Nationality USA.

Address in United Kingdom Euston Hotel London

I.O. Stamp No 19 Port Northolt Date 24.5.49

Description of passenger and class travelled

Other information Pfl: 58303 issued Washington 8.5.49

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Image Reference:5

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM HOME OFFICE RECORDS.

Our Reference PF.44990 Section B.1.B. H.O. Reference ..... (if known)

Surname ROBESON Christian Names Paul

Sex M. Nationality American Negro.
(If naturalised British state when)

Date of Birth ..... (or age)

Other particulars (e.g., Address, Occupation, Passport No., Recent Movements):

Occupation: Singer.
Believed to have arrived recently in England.

N.B. *Use a separate Form for each name.*

To R.1 for Home Office Liaison Section.

Please supply:

Copy of Traffic Index Card	Arrival and departure, please.	x
Copy of Central Aliens Register Card		
H.O. File		

N.B. If any recent travel to date.

* Mark items required

Please arrange for notification of any future Change of Registration District ☐

Date 10 August 1949 11 AUG 1949 Signature D. V. Willis 202.

For use of Home Office Liaison Section

To B1B Section R1/NO

P.T.O. for copies of T.I. and C.A.R. Cards.

Date ..... Signature M. Heartwell

S. Form 160/P.G./3000/6.48

AUG 10 1949

Copy of Card in Traffic Index.

* ARRIVAL.
* DEPARTURE.

*Port of Embarkation abroad
*Port of Disembarkation abroad } .....

Name.....

Age..... Sex.....

Passport No., Date and Place of Issue .....

Occupation.....

Nationality ..... Nationality at Birth.....

Address in United Kingdom.....

*Port of Arrival
*Port of Departure } .....

Description of passenger and class travelled.....

Other information.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

* Strike out where inapplicable.

Copy of Alien's Registration Card.

* LIVE SECTION.
* DEAD SECTION.

Extract of particulars of Registration.

Name.....

Alias.....

Nationality.....(previous).....

Born.....in.....

Occupation.....

Arrived U.K.....Left U.K.....Re-entered U.K.....

Passport.....

Registration District.....Serial No.....

I.B. or R.C. No.....

Address.....

Remarks.....

.....

.....

N.B.—Changes of address within the Registration District are not notified to the Central Aliens Registry.

*Strike out if inapplicable.

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Image Reference:5

Form 81

RU - 27.8

EXTRACT.

Extract for File No.	P.F. 44,990	Name	ROBESON		
Original in File No.	P.F. 203,002.	Serial	88a.	Receipt Date	8.8.49.
Original from	C.C.West Riding	Under Ref.	NSA/AM/SB.2305/147.	Dated	5.8.49.
Extracted on	18.8.49.	by	JFS	Section	R.4.

X-Reference to report dated 29.7.49.from Doncaster's Superintendent's Office,forwarded by C.C.West Riding re AMBATIELOS Betty Doreen mentioning ROBESON Paul.

Mrs.Betty Doreen Ambatielos'parents,Mr.and Mrs.Bartlett,who live at Rossington,and her married brother are ~~in~~ known to take no part in the Communist Movement ,or to have any leanings that way.They definately disapprove of Ambatielos' conduct. She visited her parents at Rossington, but is believed to have gone to Cardiff.It has since come to notice that she is with Paul Robeson in Cardiff.

Radio Werkers Nederland
Keizersgracht 323
Amsterdam-C.
Nederland.

RMAIL
AVION.

B.I.B.

To:
Daily Worker,
75 Farringdon, Road,
London - E.C. I
England.

FEB 1949

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829

COPY

For: [illegible]

Original filed in: [illegible]

Copied 5 AUG 1949

Form 4

RADIO WERKEND NEDERLAND

HOOFDBESTUUR - [redacted] keizersgracht 328 AMSTERDAM-C., K 2900-47768

AFD. Cultureel Werk

AMSTERDAM 2 Februari 19 49

schrijven
SP/KD - 943/49

To:
Daily Worker,
75 Farringdon Road,
London E.C. I,
England.

Dear Sirs,

Paul Robeson will given two concerts in Holland in the month of Mai of this year. Our organisation "Workers Confederation for Culture", which is the one and only progressive organisation on the culture domain in the Netherlands, want to apply to him with enclosed letter.

Paul Robeson will be in England for giving concerts in the month February or March of this year.

Because we don't know the provisional adress of Mr. Robeson we kindly ask you to send him this letter, when he comes in England. It is of greatest interest for our workers in Amsterdam, if you are willing to help us with this.

Thanking you in anticipation we remain,

with kindly greetings,
truly yours,

Sjef Pisters

Sjef Pisters,
chairman.

Catalogue Reference:KV/2/1829 Image R